

Message From The President

All segments of the New Jersey Bar and all three Federal Judge groups are represented as lawyer Directors and Judicial Advisors to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey's Historical Society. We have been working hard the past few years to assist the Court in memorializing its magnificent 212-year history as the second oldest Federal Court in the Country. Our beloved former Chief Judge Gerry's memorable reminder is our mission:

As all of those before us, during the proud history of this second oldest District Court in the Nation, we are but temporary custodians of its traditions and authority. And the living institution that is the Court has afforded each of us that rare privilege most often denied to others, to reach beyond ourselves in its service.

In our temporary custodian's role, we are involved in these projects, some of which have been completed:

- On March 5, 2002 we will celebrate our First Annual Gala. The nationally recognized Professor Hazard of Penn Law School will discuss with us "Representing a Terrorist in the Media Age." The program will include a preview of the soon-to-be-completed full history of the Court. And we will be opening a permanent exhibit in the Newark Courthouse. A short documentary film will be shown. An unusual event at the Gala will be the unveiling of the long-missing, restored Eagle that had been on the front of the first Federal Courthouse in Newark opened in 1897.
- In October of 2002, we will be co-sponsoring a lecture/reception with the United States Supreme Court Historical Society and the Historical Societies for the Third Circuit and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. A documentary on the "Camden 28" will also be presented at that time. In addition, another permanent exhibit will be placed in the Mitchell H. Cohen Courthouse at One John F. Gerry Plaza in Camden.
- Among our completed projects is the permanent exhibit in the lobby of the Clarkson S. Fisher Courthouse in Trenton. We have opened and there are in functional use luxurious lawyers' lounges in both the Cohen and Fisher buildings. In Newark, at our Gala in March we will be dedicating and opening the Whipple Lounge.

All lawyers are eligible to join the Society. Dues are only \$50.00 entitling a member to all of our mailings throughout the year, including, a newsletter entitled Nunc Pro Tunc that is in the works, social events and special seating at judicial ceremonies.

Donald A. Robinson, President
Historical Society of the United States
District Court for the District of New Jersey